

To the Building Department and Stow Planning Board:

We are concerned with the deforestation that has taken place in the lot to the right of our property (between 137 and 153 Harvard Road) and any potential building that may take place.

While we recognize a property owner can remove trees from their property, we do not know if this is in compliance with town laws as nearly all of the trees have been removed from the property, or if the tree removal has been cleared with the town or Tree Warden. The removal of the trees has caused flooding into the street that has been left largely unchecked, and there has been pooling at the edge of our property.

Our concerns are as follows, there is already soil erosion and flooding issues going into the street, the natural wind barrier that the trees on the neighboring property provided is now removed. Being that a majority of the land behind our house and we are assuming on the neighboring property is ledge we are concerned about further soil erosion now that the trees have been cut down and if there is further disturbance with the soil if the tree stumps are removed. If there is further disturbance to the soil we are worried about negative impacts on our property.

Additionally due to the runoff we receive from Wedgewood Pines and the increased flooding in the road we are concerned that there will be more water flooding in front of our driveway and the winter icing we experience at the bottom of our driveway and that extends into the road is going to be increased due to the increased water flow. This already causes a public safety issue in that the storm drain is after our driveway, and the school bus skids when trying to stop in front of our home. Given that this is having a negative impact on our neighbors and the seemingly accelerated rate at which they are doing work on the property at 137 we are worried that the home may be put on the market and sold prior to any of these issues being addressed or properly remedied.

We have for a number of years now reported constant issues with the runoff from Wedgewood Pines Golf Course. The runoff from Wedgewood Pines already causes multiple issues on Wedgewood Road and Harvard Roads with the removal of the trees on the property next to ours there is now more flooding in the street and across the street to the even numbered side of Harvard Road. We already are dealing with flooding, seepage into our basement, have had to raise our well head due to continuous contamination from the run off, and are subject to dangerous road conditions due to flooding and refreezing in the winter time. We do not want to have additional issues with regards to the potential construction and more flooding as well. Additionally we do not want the water tables to be affected for our well, and we were told at one point that the flooding was caused by an underground stream.

We are also confused about the status of the lot next to our home (between 137 and 153 Harvard Road). Prior to purchasing our house we checked with the town, and were told that the lot was a non-buildable lot. If the status of the lot has changed we would like to know and have additional concerns regarding any potential building that may be permitted documented.

Requests and considerations

1. Trench along the property line to mitigate further soil erosion and additional run off with proper drainage from the adjacent property if any more tree stumps or if the soil is going to be disturbed or removed.
2. If the status of the property has changed and it is now a buildable lot we are requesting that since we are on the same ledge formation that no blasting be done. Given this was a precedent set when they were trying to build the caretakers home at Wedgewood Pines we would think this would be something that the town would abide by and given we are in a densely populated area and could potentially have a negative impact on the surrounding homes as well as the school house.
3. We would prefer that there is no drilling on the property as we do not want to have any further issues with our foundation, our well or drinking water affected or further disturb the underground stream, that would result in further flooding on our property.
4. As we had previously requested we would like the town to investigate the possibility of putting in an additional storm drain or catch basin where the runoff is coming from Wedgewood Pines golf course through our property. This would help significantly with the icing issues as well as the flooding of the road. We had previously given the highway department permission to dig in the area in front of our shed and to the road if necessary.

Thank you,

Jonathan Mascia
153 Harvard Road

Cc Tree Warden
Conservation Commission
Highway Department